including the State of Uttar Pradesh. These rehabilitation schemes/programmes are as under :-

(i) Central Government has provided following percentage of reservation in Government jobs for ex-Servicemen :-

	Central Government	Central PSUs/ Banks
Group 'C' posts	10%	14.5%
Group 'D' posts	20%	24.5%

(ii) Besides, in Para Military Forces, a reservation of 10% is also provided in posts of Assistant Commandants. Recruitment in Defence Security Corps is earmarked for ex-Servicemen.

(iii) Relaxation in age and educational qualifications for ex-Servicemen for employment in Government jobs.

(iv) Training Programmes for improving their employability in Government job or to enable them to take self-employment after retirement.

(v) Loan facilities under SEMFEX-I, SEMFEX-II and SEMFEX-III schemes for setting up self - employment ventures.

(vi) 7.5% of petroleum product agencies reserved for allotment to widows/dependents of posthumous gallantry award winners, war disabled, war widows etc.

(d) to (f) The schemes regarding reservation of jobs for ex-Servicemen in Government Departments, relaxation in Age and educational qualifications, reservation of petroleum product agencies for war widows/war disabled etc., do not require specific allocation of funds, and are in the nature of concessions/ preferences provided to ex-Servicemen. The amount of loan/financial assistance provided to ex-Servicemen in a particular financial year depends on the number of ex-Servicemen applying for the same and fulfilling the conditions therefor.

Facilities to ex-servicemen

2295. DR. A.K. PATEL : Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state :

(a) the facilities being provided to ex-servicemen, the widows of soldiers and their families;

(b) whether there is any scheme for providing medical facility to them as is being provided to Central Government Employees;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor and whether the Government would consider it?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU) : (a) to (d) The important facilities being provided to the ex-Servicemen, the widows of Service personnel and their families are briefly as under :

RESETTLEMENT FACILITIES

(i) Central Government have reserved 10 per cent of Group 'C' posts and 20 per cent of Group 'D' posts for ex-Servicemen. 10 per cent posts of Assistant Commandants in Para Military Forces are also reserved for ex-Servicemen. Central Public Sector Undertakings and Nationalised Banks provide 14.5 per cent reservation in Group 'C' and 24.5 per cent in Group 'D' posts to ex-Servicemen.

(ii) Loans/financial assistance for setting up small scale industries, Service industries, Agro-based industries, Khadi & Village industries are provided to ex-Servicemen under three self-employment schemes known as SEMFEX-I, SEMFEX-II and SEMFEX-III.

(iii) Government have reserved 7.5% of the Oil product agencies i.e., LPG Kerosene Oil agencies and Petrol Pumps for widows/ dependents of posthumous gallantry award winners, war widows, war disabled and for personnel disabled during peace time with disability of 50% and above.

WELFARE FACILITIES

(i) Ex-Servicemen can avail of Canteen facilities from the nearest CSD canteens.

(ii) Children of Defence Personnel killed or permanently disabled in action who are studying in institutions under the Department of Education, are granted complete exemption from tution fee and other fee levied by the institution.

(iii) Reservation of 25 seats in MBBS and one seat in BDS have been made for the wards of ex-Servicemen killed or disabled in action or during in peace time due to attributable causes.

(iv) Two seats in each of the six IITs are reserved for children of the Defence/Para Military Forces personnel killed or permanently disabled in action.

(v) Twenty five percent seats are reserved for wards of serving and retired Armed Forces personnel in Sainik Schools.

(vi) 50% concession is provided in air fare for travel in domestic flight of Indian Airlines to recipients of gallantry awards of Param Vir Chakra, Mahavir Chakra, Ashok Chakra and

Kirti Chakra; permanently disabled officers and dependent members of their families; and to the war widows of post Independent era. Rail travel concession is also being provided to the war-widows by the Ministry of Railways.

(vii) 35 War memorial hostels have been constructed to provide accommodation to wards of war bereaved and disabled personnel to enable them to pursue their studies. Kendriya Sainik Board also provides education grant to the children staying in these hostels.

(viii) Kendriya Sainik Board and Rajya/Zila Sainik Boards provide financial assistance from Welfare Funds to old and infirm ex-Servicemen and their widows in indigent circumstances. Financial assistance is also provided to needy ex-Servicemen for medical treatment, daughter's marriage, repair of house etc.

MEDICAL FACILITIES :

Defence personnel after retirement are provided adequate medical cover under a comprehensive package. The package consists of the following medical facilities/concessions :-

(i) Ex-Servicemen are provided free outpatient treatment in Military Hospitals. They are also provided in-patient treatment in Military Hospitals, except for psychiatric treatment, cancer treatment, kidney transplantation and coronary bypass surgery.

(ii) For ailments in respect of which treatment is not available in Military Hospitals, medical cover is provided under the Group Insurance schemes of the Armed Forces. Under the Group Insurance scheme, an amount of Rs. 100 lakh is paid for heart treatment, Rs. 75,000/- for Cancer treatment, Rs. 100 lakh for Renal transplant and Rs. 75,000/- for hip and knee joint replacement.

(iii) Those ex-Servicemen who are not covered under the medical insurance schemes, are provided financial assistance upto 60% of total expenditure on treatment of serious diseases, e.g., by-pass surgery, angiography, kidney renal transplant, cancer, coronary artery surgery, etc., by the Kendriya Sainik Board.

(iv) Ex-Servicemen can also take treatment in State Government civil hospitals.

(v) 24 MI Rooms and 12 Dental Centres have been set up for providing medical facilities exclusively to ex-Servicemen and their dependents.

(vi) Needy ex-Servicemen are also provided financial assistance for medical treatment from Raksha Mantris Discretionary Fund upto a maximum of Rs. 15,000/-.

Government have set up 127 Military Hospitals exclusively for Armed Forces serving personnel, ex-Servicemen and their families. These hospitals are based on regionalised patterns of health care delivery system and grouped into large Command Hospitals, Zonal hospitals, Medium hospitals and small hospitals.

There is no scheme at present on the pattern of Central Government employees for providing medical facility to ex-Servicemen, as they are provided adequate medical cover under the above mentioned schemes of the Ministry of Defence.

[English]

Passport Office, Bangalore

2296. SHRI ANANTH KUMAR : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the number of passport applications pending with the passport office at Bangalore as on December 31, 1996;

(b) the number of passports issued by the said office during the last three years as on December 31, 1996, yearwise;

(c) whether the said office has sufficient staff to clear the workload;

(d) if not, the steps being taken to post sufficient number of employees;

(e) whether the Government are contemplating to open passport offices in other cities like Hubli/Belgaum/Mangalore in Karnataka; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI I.K. GUJRAL) : (a) 6600 passport applications were pending with the Passport Office, Bangalore as on 31 December, 1996. Of these, 703 were pending for more than one month.

(b) The number of passports issued by the Passport Office in Bangalore during the last three years is as follows :

1994	1995	1996
77646	95672	105905

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) There is no proposal presently under consideration of the Government to open any more Passport offices in Karnataka as the existing office is able to cater to the needs of passport applicants from